

Re: Application Number: 10/748,857

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Applicant: CORNFIELD, Randall

Art Unit: 3676

Confirmation Number: 6240

Examiner: WILLIAMS, MARK A

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF DANIEL TROTTIER UNDER 37 CFR 1.132

Sir:

I, Daniel Trottier, declare as follows:

1. I am a Chef, professional educator of culinary arts and kitchen management as well as owner of a culinary academy based in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. In addition I hold an engineering degree and have been in the culinary industry for the last 15 years. I also am a culinary consultant working with major houseware manufacturers and retailers, consulting on the use, design, implementation and overall marketability of their kitchen products. I am also a TV personality on French language TV in Canada as the resident on-air culinary expert, advising and educating the general public on cooking technologies, techniques, food related subjects and the best cooking tools to use.

2. In my expert opinion the perfect implement handle would be one that provides for

- (a) proper position from an orthopedic view point, to reduce stress in use
- (b) preset positioning of the hand for both the thumb, index finger palm and remaining fingers
- (c) a high degree of safety by constraining the hand to remain in its preset position
- (d) meeting the above requirements in a comfortable grip and in a shape and form that allows multiple different hands of different sizes to share all of the benefits
- (e) during usage of the tool to which the handle is attached to, easily performing the task to which the tool is created for
- (f) usability if a firm grip or a precision grip is required so that both of these grips are achievable within one handle shape
- (g) usability with a large interval of applied force
- (h) adaptability to both left and right handed users.

Each year, manufacturers create supposedly improved handles in the goal of approaching such a "perfect" implement handle. To my knowledge, none of the multitude of handles currently in existence meets all these criteria, despite the long-felt need for such handles as shown by the large number of new handles put on the market each year.

3. The claims of the above-referenced patent application are directed to an implement handle including a generally elongated and substantially rectilinear body defining a body longitudinal axis, a body forward end for connection to an implement head and a longitudinally opposed body rearward end, the body also defining a body top surface and a substantially opposed body bottom surface. The body defines an encirclable section located intermediate the body forward and rearward ends, the encirclable section being configured and sized so as to be graspable between at least a portion of a palm and at least a portion of at

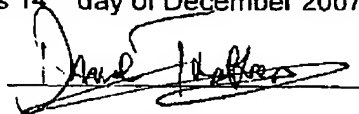
least either one of a middle, ring or small fingers at least partially encircling the encirclable section. The body top surface is provided with an identifiable thumb rest area located intermediate the encirclable section and the body forward end for contacting at least a portion of the distal pulp of the thumb, the thumb rest area defining a rest area forwardmost location. The body bottom surface is provided with a substantially concave indentation defining an indentation surface located intermediate the encirclable section and the body forward end for contacting at least a portion of one of the finger lateral surfaces of the index finger with the latter in substantially perpendicular relationship with the body longitudinal axis. The indentation surface has a substantially arcuate cross-sectional configuration defining an indentation first end located substantially adjacent the encirclable section and an indentation second end located substantially adjacent to the body forward end, the indentation second end defining an indentation end point, the body defining a cross-sectional first reference plane extending in a substantially perpendicular relationship with the body longitudinal axis and intercepting the indentation end point, the indentation surface being configured and sized so that at least a section of the indentation surface is positioned forwardly relative to the first reference plane. The encirclable section has a substantially fusiform configuration tapering towards the body rearward end and tapering forwardly towards both the thumb rest area and the indentation.

4. In my opinion, the claimed features of the claimed handle meet all the requirements stated hereinabove, thereby meeting a long-felt need for a handle meeting these criteria.

I, the undersigned, declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States

Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Executed this 14th day of December 2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Trotter", is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Trotter